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THE TWENTIETH MICHIGAN CLASSICAL CONFERENCE

FRANCIS W. KELSEY
University of Michigan

The Twentieth Michigan Classical Conference was held in Ann Arbor on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, April 1, 2, and 3, 1914, in connection with the annual meeting of the Michigan Schoolmasters' Club. The four sessions were held in the Alumni Memorial Hall.

At the business session on Friday afternoon, Professor B. L. D'Ooge was elected chairman and Professor John G. Winter, vice-chairman; as Professor D'Ooge found it impossible to serve, Professor Winter has charge of the chairman's duties until the next Conference. Miss Florence B. Barnard succeeded Miss Clara J. Allison on the Extension Committee, which is now constituted as follows: Professor A. R. Crittenden, chairman, Miss Florence B. Barnard, of Saginaw, and Professor E. D. Dimnent, of Hope College.

Program

Wednesday Afternoon, April 1

Presiding Officer: PROFESSOR CAMPBELL BONNER, University of Michigan

1. Some Imperial Acclamations and Unexpected Parallels

DR. ORMA F. BUTLER, University of Michigan

A study of Roman history tends to show that these people, at all stages of their national development, were fond of indulgence in certain outbursts of rhythmic applause not unlike our college yells. Under the Empire, these came to center around the emperor and his family, and were developed to a high degree. The records of these, found in the pages of the *Scriptores historiae Augustae*, are, in a general way, substantiated by epigraphic and other evidence and show many interesting similarities to the church litany.

The presence of litanies in the worship of early Rome can be inferred with reasonable certainty. They are found in the worship of races much older than the Romans, and their origin, still hidden, I believe, in a more remote past, probably centers in two things: the idea that repetition will attract the attention of the divinity and man's natural fondness for rhythm. Their use in later Roman history is seen in the records of the Arvals.

2. The Advantage of a Classification of Words by Concepts in Learning Languages

PROFESSOR WALTER N. HALSEY, University of Omaha

Published in the *Journal of the Michigan Schoolmasters' Club* (1914), pp. 9-13.

3. Discussion of Professor Halsey's Paper

DR. MASON D. GRAY, East High School, Rochester, New York

Published in the *Journal of the Michigan Schoolmasters' Club* (1914), p. 19.

4. The Technical Vocabulary of Robert of Chester's Latin Translation of the Algebra of Al-Khowarizmi

PROFESSOR L. C. KARPINSKI, University of Michigan

Students of science and philology have an interest in the work of the Arabic mathematician and astronomer Mohammed ibn Musa Al-Khowarizmi, since through his works no less than four common words have come into our language. The word "algebra" is taken from the title of his treatise *al-jabr w'al-muqabala*, the first systematic treatise on algebra, written about 830 A.D., and translated into Latin by Robert of Chester in the city of Segovia, Spain, in 1144 A.D. The word "algorism" is a transmutation of his name, and this word was long used as the designation of a work on the Hindu art of reckoning; Al-Khowarizmi's arithmetic in Latin translation was the first work to bring to Europeans the knowledge of the numerals and the system of computation which we use. The words "zero" and "cipher" represent different evolutions of the Arabic *sifr*, which is the term employed in the arithmetic to designate the tenth numerical character, the zero.

The complete technical vocabulary will appear in the edition of Robert of Chester's text, which is now in press.¹

5. The Associations of Cicero with his Villa at Tusculum

MR. GEORGE R. SWAIN, University of Michigan

To be published.

6. Archaeological Discoveries at Corfu²

PROFESSOR MARTIN L. D'OOGHE, University of Michigan

Published in *Art and Archaeology*, I (1915), 153-58.

7. Examples of Pompeian Wall Decoration in the United States²

PROFESSOR FRANCIS W. KELSEY, University of Michigan

Thursday Afternoon, April 2

Presiding Officer: PROFESSOR MARTIN L. D'OOGHE, University of Michigan

8. High-School Latin and the College-Entrance Requirements

PROFESSOR B. L. D'OOGHE, Michigan State Normal College

Discussion led by PROFESSOR H. A. SANDERS, University of Michigan

9. Why Students from Michigan High Schools Who Present Latin for Admission Do Not Continue the Study of Latin in the University

PROFESSOR A. R. CRITTENDEN, University of Michigan

Published in the *Journal of the Michigan Schoolmasters' Club* (1914), pp. 13-17.

¹ *University of Michigan Studies*, Humanistic Series, Vol. XI, Part 1.

² Illustrated with the stereopticon.

10. Freshman Elections of Latin

PROFESSOR ARTHUR G. HALL, University of Michigan

Published in the *Journal of the Michigan Schoolmasters' Club* (1914), pp. 17-19.

11. Discussion of the Problem of the Transition of Latin Study from the High School to the University

PROFESSOR T. E. RANKIN, University of Michigan; SUPERINTENDENT

W. G. COBURN, Battle Creek; DR. F. O. BATES, Central High School, Detroit

12. Exhibits in the Basement of Alumni Memorial Hall:

A. Facsimiles of Manuscripts of the Bible. In charge of PROFESSOR H. A. SANDERS

B. Recent Publications in the Field of Classical Literature and Archaeology. In charge of PROFESSORS CAMPBELL BONNER and A. R. CRITTENDEN

C. Archaeological Illustrative Material (Charts and Plates). In charge of PROFESSOR J. G. WINTER and DR. F. E. ROBBINS

D. Inscriptions. In charge of F. W. KELSEY

Friday Afternoon, April 3

Presiding Officer: F. W. KELSEY

13. Light on the New Testament from Greek Life and Customs

DR. F. E. ROBBINS, University of Michigan

Modern researches and newly discovered papyri from Egypt, revealing most intimately the life and language of the common people of the Graeco-Roman age, have shown that the New Testament Greek is simply the Greek spoken by the ordinary man in Paul's time, and have brought us vast new resources for the reconstruction and better understanding of Paul's world.¹

Paul on his journeys may have carried introductory letters to acquaintances of his friends; at least he mentions them (II Cor. 3:1; I Cor. 16:3) and writes one himself (Rom 16:1). Lucian, in the *Asinus*, mentions such letters, and now we have an actual example from Egypt, wherein one Mystarion commends his servant Blastus to his friend Stotoëtis. This and other papyrus letters also illustrate the customs whereby a man whose hand was unaccustomed to the pen used an amanuensis for the greater part of the letter but added a line in his own hand at the end, as did Paul (II Thess. 3:17; I Cor. 16:21; Gal. 6:11). Paul as a traveler, too, was subject to all the inconveniences and dangers of Greek ships, and his adventures in the shipwreck recorded in Acts are very like those of Leucippe and Clitophon in the romance by Achilles Tatius.

Many of Paul's listeners must have been adherents of the widespread "mystery-religions" of the Graeco-Roman world, and it has been pointed out that in speaking to them Paul used a large number of terms found in the writings emanating from these cults—for example, *pneuma*, *pneumatikos*, and *psychikos* (translated "spirit,"

¹ Much material is from Deissmann's *Licht vom Osten* and Reitzenstein's *Die hellenistischen Mysterienreligionen*.

"spiritual," and "natural" in the King James Version; see, e.g., I Cor. 2:14 ff.), and in a sense not far removed from that in which they were there employed.

In a word, Paul and his contemporaries were men of their own age, and there is no prospect of truly understanding them unless we can reconstruct intelligently their material and mental environment and grasp the full force, with all its associations and suggestions of each Greek word that they wrote.

14. The Socialization of the Classics

DR. MASON D. GRAY, East High School, Rochester, New York,
President of the Classical Section of the New York State Teachers'
Association

To be published.

15. Discussion of Dr. Gray's Paper

MISS MARY F. FARNSWORTH, Western High School, Detroit

MISS FLORENCE B. BARNARD, Saginaw High School

Published in the *Journal of the Michigan Schoolmasters' Club* (1914), pp. 20-21.

16. The Simultaneous Teaching of English Grammar and Beginning Latin in the Seventh and Eighth Grades

MISS ANNA S. JONES, Grand Rapids

An outline of Miss Jones's report is published in *Journal of the Michigan Schoolmasters' Club* (1914), pp. 22-23.

17. The Language Problem of the Junior High School

PROFESSOR A. S. WHITNEY, University of Michigan

In the absence of Professor Whitney the subject was vigorously discussed by Superintendent C. E. Chadsey, of Detroit, and Principal J. C. McKenzie, of the Central High School, Detroit. At the close of the discussion the Conference by a unanimous vote placed itself on record in favor of the introduction of Latin into the Seventh and Eighth grades.

Friday Evening, April 3

Presiding Officer: F. W. KELSEY

18. The Results of the New Course of Study at Princeton

PROFESSOR ANDREW F. WEST, Dean of the Graduate College, Princeton University

Dean West presented and interpreted the encouraging results of inquiry in regard to the value of Greek which were briefly stated in the *Educational Review*, XLVII (1914), 279-90.

19. Our Gospels and the Early Manuscripts¹

PROFESSOR H. A. SANDERS, University of Michigan

Professor Sanders dealt with some aspects of the problem of the relations of the early manuscripts of the Gospels which he treated more fully in the *University of Michigan Studies*, Humanistic Series, IX, Part 1.

¹ Illustrated with the stereopticon.